

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

DANIEL WESLING,

Petitioner,

v.

ERIC TICE, Warden,

Respondent.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:18-CV-02405

(MUNLEY, J.)
(MEHALCHICK, M.J.)

RULE 5 ORDER

The petitioner, a state prisoner, has filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Pursuant to *Mason v. Meyers*, 208 F.3d 414 (3d Cir. 2000), the district court is required to give to the petitioner notice regarding the effects of filing a § 2254 petition in light of the Antiterrorism Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA). The AEDPA bars state prisoners from attacking their convictions through second or successive habeas corpus petitions except in very limited circumstances. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b). The AEDPA also imposes a one-year statute of limitations on petitions for a writ of habeas corpus. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d). “Habeas petitioners must therefore be careful to avoid the twin procedural bars that [the] AEDPA has created.” *United States v. Miller*, 197 F.3d 644, 649 (3d Cir. 1999). To avoid making successive claims, petitioners must marshal in one § 2254 petition all of the arguments they have to collaterally attack their convictions. *Miller*, 197 F.3d at 649. Moreover, in order to avoid being time barred, a petitioner must take care to file this one all-inclusive petition within the one-year statute of limitations. *Miller*, 197 F.3d at 649.

The Court will grant the petitioner an opportunity to decide whether to stand on the current petition or to withdraw the petition so that the petitioner can file an all-inclusive

petition. If the petitioner elects to withdraw the current petition, the petitioner should be aware that any all-inclusive petition must be filed with the one-year statute of limitations. The petitioner should carefully consider the one-year statute of limitations provision in 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d) in making this election to either stand on the current petition or to withdraw the current petition so that the petitioner may file an all-inclusive petition. The filing of the instant petition and the thirty-day period to elect whether to stand on the petition or withdraw the petition does not extend or toll the statute of limitations.

Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that, on or before **March 21, 2019**, the petitioner shall complete and file the enclosed election form, indicating an election to have the petition construed and ruled upon under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 or to withdraw the current petition. In making this election, the petitioner should carefully consider all of the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 2244. If the petitioner fails to complete and file the attached election form within the timeframe provided, the petition will be ruled upon under 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

BY THE COURT:

Dated: February 25, 2019

s/ Karoline Mehalchick
KAROLINE MEHALCHICK
United States Magistrate Judge

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ELECTION FORM

I, _____, the Petitioner in the above-captioned case, have read the accompanying order in its entirety and make the following election:

I choose to have the Court rule on my petition as filed under [28 U.S.C. § 2254](#). I understand that I may be forever barred from presenting in federal court any claim not presented in my petition. I further understand that by doing so I lose my ability to file a second or successive [§ 2254](#) petition absent permission by the Court of Appeals.

I choose to withdraw the petition so that I may file one all-inclusive petition under [28 U.S.C. § 2254](#) within the applicable statute of limitations. I understand that claims in any future petition may be barred if the petition is not filed within the applicable statute of limitations.

YOUR CHOICE ON THIS FORM, AS WELL AS THE FAILURE TO MAKE A CHOICE, WILL BE BINDING ON YOU AS RELATED TO YOUR LITIGATION IN FEDERAL COURT OF ANY CLAIM RELATED TO THE CUSTODY YOU HAVE CHALLENGED. READ CAREFULLY THE ORDER ACCOMPANYING THIS FORM NOTICE OF ELECTION.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

(Signature)

(Date)